



Paul Ramey, left, and Ronald Gladish, juniors at North High School, try out the school's ham radio station. The cards with letters on

them over the top of the radio are from other ham radio operators the two boys have contacted.

## Three North High Juniors <sup>1961</sup> Start on Their Adult Careers

### Operate 'Ham' Sets, Build School Facility

Three teen-agers at North High School started to work three years ago on their lifetime careers — the field of electronics.

Paul Ramey, Ronald Gladish and Mac Campbell, all juniors, are amateur radio operators, known popularly as "hams."

All have their own radio sets and are capable of operating the school's new amateur station.

**NORTH HIGH'S** station has a power of 50 watts and is not yet licensed. It is being operated as a portable unit.

The boys built the transmitter for the station at North's Amateur Radio Club. They are using a sender belonging to James Emmick, industrial arts teacher and sponsor of the club.

The cost of a "ham" radio set runs from \$150 to \$1500, the boys said. "Most people build their own transmitters, not only because it's cheaper but because you get a better piece of equip-

ments Commission. Each also had to send 13 words a minute in international Morse Code. The license is good for five years and is renewable without taking another test.

A "ham" with a general license may operate a station up to 1000 watts in power, may communicate by voice as well as code, and is given permanent call letters. Ron's are K9UIB, and Paul's are K9UIJ. The K designates that the radio call letter is in the United States and the 9 represents an area including Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Mac has received a novice license which is good for one year and is not renewable. He plans to take the test for his general license sometime next summer.

To receive the license, Mac passed a test of 25 multiply choice questions and had to send five words per minute in international code. His station is limited to the power of 75 watts and his call letters are KN9ZKY—the

operator. He can only communicate with code.


**THE GREATEST** excitement for the boys is seeing how far away they can contact other "ham" operators. So far, Paul is ahead. Last summer with his 50 watt station at home he contacted an American "ham" operator in Nigeria on the southwestern coast of Africa.

The boys have no trouble with communicating because of the use of international code. If they can't speak to the "ham" in a foreign country, they use code. However, all three boys agree that most of the operators throughout the world speak English.

Some of the "hams" Ron has contacted with his 120 watt station have been in Puerto Rico and others in Canada. The farthest Mac has gotten has been Arizona.

Everytime the boys contact a new station, they mail the operator a card with their call letters on it and the other operator re-





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The cost of a "ham" radio set runs from \$150 to \$1500, the boys said. "Most people build their own transmitters, not only because it's cheaper but because you get a better piece of equipment," Emmick noted.

Emmick, a former Navy communications man, said he believes the training the youths are now receiving will be invaluable to them in the future. "The field of communications is big and growing bigger every day. These boys will have half the battle licked before they even graduate from high school."

**TWO OF THE** boys, Paul and Ron, now have a general license and Mac has a novice rating.

To get the general license, Paul and Ron passed a test of 50 multiple choice questions on radio theory and regulations as set up by the Federal Communica-

tions Commission. Each also had to send 13 words a minute in international Morse Code. The license is good for five years and is renewable without taking another test.

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